## APPENDIX G TO PART 173—DEFINITION OF REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE

### 1. GENERAL

A. *Regulated medical waste* is a waste material listed in the following table that is—

(a) Generated in the diagnosis, treatment (e.g., provision of medical services), or immunization of human beings or animals;

(b) In research pertaining thereto; or

(c) In the production or testing of biologicals.

**TABLE—REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE**

| Waste class | Description |
|---|---|
| (1) Cultures and Stocks. | Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including: cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories; wastes from the production of biologicals; discarded live and attenuated vaccines; and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures. |
| (2) Pathological Wastes. | Human pathological wastes, including tissues, organs, and body parts and body fluids that are removed during surgery or autopsy, or other medical procedures, and specimens of body fluids and their containers. |
| (3) Human Blood and Blood Products…..... | (1) Liquid waste human blood; (2) products of blood; (3) items saturated and/or dripping with human blood; or (4) items that were saturated and/or dripping with human blood that are now caked with dried human blood; including serum, plasma, and other blood components, and their containers, which were used or intended to use in either patient care, testing and laboratory analysis or the development of pharmaceuticals. Intravenous bags are also included in this category. |
| (4) Sharps…….. | Sharps that have been used in animal or human patient care or treatment or in medical, research, or industrial laboratories, including hypodermic needles, syringes (with or without the attached needle), pasteur pipettes, scalpel blades, blood vials, needles with attached tubing, and culture dishes (regardless of presence of infectious agents). Also included are other types of broken or unbroken glassware that were in contact with infectious agents, such as used slides and cover slips. |
| (5) Animal Waste | Contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that were known to have been exposed to infectious agents during research (including research in veterinary hospitals), production of biologicals, or testing of pharmaceuticals. |
| (6) Isolation Waste. | Biological waste and discarded materials contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates, or secretions from humans who are isolated to protect others from certain highly communicable disease, or isolated animals known to be infected with highly communicable diseases. |
| (7) Unused Sharps. | The following unused, discarded sharps: hypodermic needles, suture needles, syringes, and scalpel blades. |

NOTE: The term *solid waste* includes solid, semisolid, or liquid materials, but does not include domestic sewage materials identified in the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency contained in 40 CFR 261.4.

### 2. EXCEPTIONS

(a) The following wastes are excepted from the requirements for regulated medical waste:

(i) Hazardous waste identified or listed under the regulation in 40 CFR part 261;

(ii) Household waste, as defined in 40 CFR 261.4(b)(1);

(iii) Ash from incineration of regulated medical waste once the incineration process has been completed;

(iv) Residues from treatment and destruction processes of regulated medical waste once the waste has been both treated and destroyed; or

(v) Human corpses, remains, and anatomical parts that are intended for interment or cremation.

(b) Samples of regulated medical waste transported off-site by EPA or State-designated enforcement personnel for enforcement purposes are excepted from the requirements of this subchapter during the enforcement proceeding.

(c) Until October 1, 1992, cultures of etiologic agents of 50 milliliters (1,666 fluid ounces) or less total quantity in one outside package are not subject to any requirements of this subchapter if the items as packaged do not contain any material otherwise subject to the requirements of parts 171 through 180 of this subchapter.

**[Amdt. 173-224, 56 FR 66280, Dec., 20 1991]**